

Response to Office Action
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/660,344

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A toy, comprising:

a body;

a breath sensor, the breath sensor being coupled to the body at a first location, the breath sensor being configured to detect the presence of breath proximate to the first location by detecting the value of one of humidity and temperature proximate to the body, the breath sensor being configured to generate an electrical characteristic relative to the value detected by the breath sensor;

a reference sensor, the reference sensor being coupled to the body at a second location, the second location being spaced apart from the first location, the reference sensor in the second location being protected from any breath to which the breath sensor at the first location is exposed, the reference sensor being configured to detect the value of one of humidity and temperature proximate to the body and to generate its own electrical characteristic relative to the value detected by the reference sensor;

an output device, the output device being configured to produce an output; and

a processor, the processor being operatively coupled to the breath sensor, to the reference sensor, and to the output device, the processor being configured to compare the electrical characteristic of the breath sensor to the electrical characteristic of the reference sensor, the processor being configured to activate the output device if the electrical characteristics of the breath and reference sensors differ by a predetermined amount.

34. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 33, wherein the output device is configured to generate an audible output, and activation of the output device results in the generation of an audible output.

Response to Office Action
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/660,344

35. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 34, wherein the difference between the electrical characteristic of the breath sensor and the electrical characteristic of the reference sensor is created by the presence of a user's breath proximate to the breath sensor, the presence of breath being an input by a user and the audible output being generated in response to the user input.
36. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 33, wherein the output device is configured to generate a visual output, and activation of the output device results in the generation of a visual output.
37. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 33, wherein the output device is configured to generate a mechanical output, and activation of the output device results in the generation of a mechanical output.
38. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 37, wherein the body includes a part movable relative thereto, the mechanical output comprising movement of the movable part relative to the body.
39. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 33, wherein the breath sensor includes a humidity sensor and the value detected by the breath sensor is humidity.
40. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 33, wherein the breath sensor includes a temperature sensor and the value detected by the breath sensor is temperature.
41. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 33, wherein the body resembles a character, the first location is proximate to a head of the character, and the second location is disposed away from the head of the character.

Response to Office Action
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/660,344

42. (Previously Presented) The toy of claim 33, wherein the body resembles a musical instrument which includes at least two channels into which air can be introduced, the first location being disposed within one of the channels.
43. (Previously Presented) A breath-sensitive toy, comprising:
- a first sensor, the first sensor being positioned at a first location on the toy, the first sensor being configured to generate an electrical characteristic in response to the presence of breath proximate to the first sensor;
 - a second sensor, the second sensor being positioned at a second location on the toy, the second location being spaced apart from the first location, the second sensor being located so that it is protected from air exposure, the second sensor being configured to generate an electrical characteristic in response to the detection of ambient conditions proximate to the second sensor, the second sensor being positioned to be exposed to different ambient conditions than the first sensor;
 - an output device; and
 - a processor, the processor being connected to the first sensor, to the second sensor and to the output device, the processor being configured to compare the electrical characteristic of the first sensor and the electrical characteristic of the second sensor, the processor activating the output device when the electrical characteristic of the first sensor exceeds the electrical characteristic of the second sensor by a predetermined amount.
44. (Previously Presented) The breath-sensitive toy of claim 43, wherein the output device produces a visual output.
45. (Previously Presented) The breath-sensitive toy of claim 43, wherein the output device includes a mechanical actuator.

Response to Office Action
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/660,344

46. (Previously Presented) The breath-sensitive toy of claim 43, wherein the output device includes a speaker, and the toy is configured to initiate dialogue with a user by playing a prerecorded phrase.
47. (Previously Presented) The breath-sensitive toy of claim 43, wherein the first sensor includes a humidity sensor and the second sensor includes a humidity sensor.
48. (Previously Presented) The breath-sensitive toy of claim 43, wherein the first sensor includes a temperature sensor and the second sensor includes a temperature sensor.
49. (Previously Presented) A breath-sensitive musical toy, comprising:
a body, the body defining a plurality of distinct channels, each of the channels defining a separate passageway through which air can flow;
a plurality of breath sensors, each of the breath sensors being disposed in one of the channels, each of the breath sensors being configured to generate an electrical characteristic based on the presence of breath proximate to the particular breath sensor;
a processor, the processor being electrically connected to the plurality of breath sensors;
and
a speaker, the speaker being configured to produce an audible output, the processor activating the speaker when the electrical characteristic of one of the plurality of sensors relative to the electrical characteristics of another of the plurality of sensors indicates the presence of breath.
50. (Previously Presented) The breath-sensitive musical toy of claim 49, wherein the electrical characteristic generated by a breath sensor is responsive to the quantity of breath that is detected by that particular breath sensor, and the processor controls the speaker to produce audible outputs that vary in volume in response to different quantities of breath that are detected.

Response to Office Action
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/660,344

51. (Previously Presented) The breath-sensitive musical toy of claim 50, wherein one of the breath sensors is a thermoresistive sensor.

52. (Previously Presented) The breath-sensitive musical toy of claim 51, wherein audible outputs are generated by the speaker in proportion to the force with which a user blows into one of the channels of the toy.